

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated July 3, 2008
October 3, 2008

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 10-11 and 14 have been amended and new claim 16 has been added in the application. Currently, claims 1-4, 8, 10-11, 14 and 16 are pending in the application.

Claim 11 was objected to because of the following informalities: the Examiner believed that the terms "retracting" and "backing" the selector information were unclear.

By this amendment, these terms have been deleted. Specifically, the phrase "retracting selector information of said recording medium" in claim 11 has been amended to "saving selector information of said recording medium temporarily". Also, the phrase "backing to rewrite said retracted selector information after the reproduction" in claim 11 has been amended to "rewriting said retracted selector information after the reproduction". Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Verbakel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,090). Also, claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC

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103(a) as being obvious over Verbakel et al. in view of Stefik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,012).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks below.

The present invention relates to a method of recording to a recording medium on which digital data is recorded, a data reproducing device and a data recording device which are involved in reproducing and recording of digital data, and a data reproducing method (see page 1, lines 7-10 of the specification).

The first recording medium 100 has a content data storage area 110, a selector storage area 120, and a retrieved-information storage area 130. The content data storage area 110 is an area containing content groups (see page 9, lines 10-13 of the specification).

The selector storage area 120 contains a selector 121 as an information recording area for designating one specific content group among the N content groups stored in the content data storage area 110. In addition to this, the selector storage area 120 may contain a content data list 122. The content data list 122 is information concerning each content data contained in each of the content groups stored in the content data storage area 110.

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The content data list 122 may contain part or all of the following items. Namely, the content data list 122 may contain the total contents number 122a, the content groups number 122b, and a content list 122c.

The total contents number 122a refers to the total number of pieces of content data stored in each of the content groups in the content data storage area 110. The content groups number 122b refers to the total number of content groups N ($1 \leq i \leq N$). The content list 122c refers to a list of content data contained in each of the content groups.

The retrieved-information storage area 130 is an area for storing information needed when a data reproducing device or a data recording device extracts each content data stored in the content data storage area 110, the selector 121 stored in the selector storage area, and the like. This information includes a record address and size (see page 9, line 21 - page 10, line 19 of the specification).

As shown in Fig. 7, in step S701, when the data reproducing device, into which the first recording medium 100 has been inserted, determines that the selector 121 is processable, namely, when the data reproducing device is the first data reproducing device 200, the process steps to step S702. When the

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selector 121 is not processable, the process steps to step S706 (see page 16, lines 16-21 of the specification).

In step S801, the data reproducing device, in which the first recording medium 100 is inserted, determines whether or not the selector 121 is processable. When the selector 121 is processable, the process steps to step S802. When the selector 121 is not processable, the process steps to step S806. Specifically, when the data reproducing device in which the first recording medium 100 is inserted is the first data reproducing device 200, the process steps to step S802, while when the reproducing device is the conventional data reproducing device 300, the process steps to step S806 (see page 26, lines 5-14 of the specification).

By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups".

Also, independent claim 8 has been amended to recite "a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of said recording

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medium inserted into said slot; a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from said selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced". Also, independent claim 8 has been amended to recite "a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups".

Also, independent claim 10 has been amended to recite "said recording medium includes a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information".

Also, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite "the content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector

information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information". These features are not shown or suggested by Verbakel et al. and Stefik et al.

Verbakel et al. relate to a method for storing audio-centered information with a multi-level Table-of-Contents (TOC) mechanism and doubling of AREA-TOCs, a device for use with such mechanism and a unitary storage medium having such mechanism (see col. 1, lines 11-14). Verbakel et al. also relate to a unitary storage produced by the method, to a storing device arranged for practicing such method, and to a reader or player device arranged for interfacing to such storage medium (see col. 1, lines 39-42).

Verbakel et al. also disclose that as shown in Fig. 5, item 124 represents a MASTER_TOC that may be configured according to standard procedures and pertains to subsequent items Stereo AREA 126 and Multi-channel AREA 128, and if necessary also to Extra Data AREA 130 (see col. 4, line 64 - col. 5, line 1).

Verbakel et al. do not disclose a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a

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selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of the content groups as claimed in independent claim 1.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of the recording medium inserted into the slot; and a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from the selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced as claimed in independent claim 8.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of the content groups as claimed in independent claim 8.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose that the recording medium includes a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area

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which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts the content group and the selector information as claimed in independent claim 10.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose the content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of the content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts the content group and the selector information as claimed in independent claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that the audio storage medium of Verbakel et al. does not contain a selector storage area as disclosed in the present invention. In the present invention, the selector information has one directory name and designates one of the content groups. On the other hand, the master TOC described in col. 5, lines 40-52 of Verbakel et al. does not specify one content group. Further, the Examiner stated that the retrieved-information storage area corresponded to the master TOC 124. Applicants respectfully submit that since there is no

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corresponding part to the selector storage area, the master TOC 124 can not correspond to the retrieved-information storage area.

For these reasons, it is believed that Verbakel et al. do not show or suggest the present claimed features of the present invention. Applicants also submit that Stefik et al. do not make up for the deficiencies in Verbakel et al.

Stefik et al. relate to the field of distribution and usage rights enforcement for digitally encoded works (see col. 1, lines 24-25).

Stefik et al. disclose a fee accounting mechanism for reporting fees at a time of distribution and use of digital works.

Stefik et al. also disclose that the usage right is attached to a digital work and shows how the digital work is used or further distributed.

Stefik et al. do not disclose a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of the content groups as claimed in independent claim 1.

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Stefik et al. also do not disclose a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of the recording medium inserted into the slot; and a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from the selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced as claimed in independent claim 8.

Stefik et al. also do not disclose a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of the content groups as claimed in independent claim 8.

Stefik et al. also do not disclose that the recording medium includes a content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts the content group and the selector information as claimed in independent claim 10.

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Stefik et al. also do not disclose the content data storage area which stores at least one of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of the content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts the content group and the selector information as claimed in independent claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that the usage right of Stefik et al. does not identify users to be authorized to use the digital work.

On the other hand, the present invention relates a recording media, such as an SD card, and so the applied field of the present invention is different from that of Stefik et al. Further, the user identifier of the present invention corresponds to a content group. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that it is possible to reproduce only a content in correspondence with a user as described in page 25, lines 14-25 and page 28, lines 28-25 of the specification.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Verbakel et al. and Stefik et al., individually or in combination, do not teach,

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disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention and it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these references to render the present claims obvious.

New dependent claim 16, which directly depends from independent claim 10, has been added in the application. New dependent claim 16 has been added to recite the steps of "determining whether the selector in the recording medium is available by the data reproducing device, and changing a reproducing process based on a result of said step of determining so that a conventional data reproducing device having no selector acquiring section for reading information of the selector is capable of reproducing one of the content groups". This feature is disclosed in the specification on page 16, lines 8-21, and page 26, lines 5-14. Applicants respectfully submit that this dependent claim also defines over the prior art of record. Allowance of this claim is also respectfully requested.

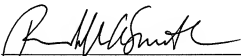
In view of foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

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If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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